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THE NEW COMMUNE

AN ORGAN OF REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM.

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ON THE BRINK OF WAR.

We are rushing towards war at a terrific rate.The heads of the most powerful states,while talking loudly about peace,are preparing for the most ghastly war of all time.The war they are contemplating will destroy every vestige af plant and animal life.Every achievement of mankind will be wiped out and the earth turned into a vast graveyard.

The points of difference between Russia and America have become more acute since May,when the heads of states came together at Paris.It is obvious that these differences cannot be resolved.Time,energy and money will be spent in ever increasing amounts,from now on,until someone presses the button and the anticipated disaster happens.Such an outcome is inevitable unless the workers brush their docile and treacherous leaders to the one side and take such action as will stop the warmongers.

DEMOCRACY.

The fact that a handful of men are in the position press the button and destroy the world makes a farce of our claim to be democratic.Only when the workers destroy those who, while talking about peace prepare for war will democracy appear as something real.

True,we have the right to vote. The question of who would represent Britain at the Summit talks was one of the issues raised at the general election.How silly that question looks now in view of what happened at Paris.We are always called upon to vote on false issues.The issue of war or peace is never settled by votes at a general election.There is no real democracy in this or any other country in the world.Workers, up to now,have always gone to war at the bidding of those in power.

SOLIDARITY.

After the Russian workers had overthrown the Czar and taken over the resources of the country,they won the admiration of the workers all over the world.Russia became a more dangerous enemy than the enemy we had fought against for four years. At least that is what the British ruling class thought.

The British Government tried to declare war against Russia but the British workers formed Councils of Action and stopped the Government. That was democracy in action.That is a page in British history to be proud of.

The position in Russia is very different from what it was then.We cannot go into the difference in the space at our disposal.We must say,however,that whatever opinions we may have regarding Khruschov and his colleagues,we can have no ill-feelings against the Russian worker. Our greatest difficulty is the fact that real contact with the workers is almost impossible.Obedience to the Government is enforced.Despite that we must express our feelings of solidarity with them and refuse to go to war against them.

OUR ENEMY.

We have organised ourselves in trade unions to raise the standards of living.The employer ,our real enemy,would degrade our condition of life if he felt strong enough.In war and in peace he stands opposed to our interests.Production and more production in order that his profits may be high,is his only concern.We must work for him or starve.

Wars are fought in the interests of the employing class.But wars are only possible if we acquiesce in them.They cannot take place if we resist them.That,of course,must lead to open struggle between the two classes.

The defeat of the employing class would be the greatest victory in our history.Such a victory would stop the kind of war being prepared for us at the moment.

It must start with a demand to abolish bases,whether American or British.We must seek for means of declaring our solidarity to workers in all parts of the world.The only war for us is the class war.The slogan of Marx: "Workers of the world Unite" is still the most appropriate,and now the most timely, for the working class.

FIGHT AGAINST WAR.

The Revolutionary Socialist Association has sent out a circular in which it is proposed that the various militant groups and parties come together in conference and try to reach agreement on a policy to combat the drive towards war. Unity on this matter is an urgent necessity.

The temporary collapse of the revolutionary movement in Europe has facilitated the spread of erroneous ideas among the workers. The attention of the workers has been directed to parliamentary debates, summit meetings and inept slogans. It is not enough for Socialists to say that they are opposed to war. We must explain matters to the workers and put a policy before them.

We don't square our consciences by toiling behind the Pacifists, who, at least, are doing something to further the cause they believe in. More than that is expected of Socialists who should recognise the class aspect as fundamental. Our ultimate Socialist aim is bound up with the resistance of the workers to the preparations for war. If the proposed conference is agreed to, these and other relevant issues will be discussed.

THE WORKERS PARTY.

Brian Behan, who was recently expelled from the Socialist Labour League after an internal fight with the leaders of that body, has taken steps to form a new party. He did not consult with other organisations in Dublin and elsewhere that for some years have emphasised the need for a new Marxist Party. He had, of course, the right to please himself in that regard.

After the new party was launched we received some material from Brian Behan. After considering the material we decided not to join because we think that much hard preparatory work is necessary before a new Party can be successfully launched. We also believe that it can only come into existence when the workers engaged in struggle on political issues. The day is past when the workers can be presented with a ready-made leadership. Marxists should get together and work out policy on issues, and then try and win support for their policy among the workers. There is no short-cut to our Socialist aims.

OUR PAPER.

We hope the time will soon come when the militant movement will have a printed paper. Until then we will issue this duplicated paper.

Order this paper from John Murphy, 16 Forrest Street, Glasgow, S.E.

Help in the way of donations is needed. Send donations to Hugh Savage, 57 Carmyle Avenue, Glasgow.

Material for publications should be sent to Harry Mc Shane, 57 Balbeg Street, Glasgow, S.W.1.

The New Commune is issued by the Revolutionary Socialist Association.

ISSUES OF J.P.N.

The tremendous demonstrations of Japanese workers and students threw the ruling class into a state of real confusion. The Prime Minister had to resign, but the Government has not yet admitted defeat. The new Premier has declared his intention to carry on with the old policy. He hopes to talk the Socialist Party into agreeing with him.

It was interesting to note that a section of the students expressed opposition to Khruschov, charging him with collaborating with the imperialists. For that they were expelled from the Communist Party. They were probably carrying the Chinese attitude to a more extreme conclusion.

BRITISH ATTITUDE.

We also have American bases in this country. But, in addition, there are British bases in other parts of the world and they are just as much part of the war drive as the bases which belong to America. Cyprus had to accept bases as the price of her independence.

The Turks brought down a British air-liner which was carrying service men to Karachi. There are thousands of British troops in other parts of the world. That is also part of the preparations for war.

When opposing American bases in Britain we cannot afford to forget the part Britain is playing. She is up to the neck in the preparations for mass slaughter.

The struggle against war starts now or doesn't start at all. We must oppose every move towards war made by the Government. That carries with it the need to explain the character of the war that is being prepared.

THE GAITSKELL-MACMILLAN TEAM.

The unanimity shown on Macmillan's letter to Khruschev in the House of Commons makes one wonder why the members of that institution is split into two parties.Gaitskell expressed his whole-hearted support for the spirit of the letter.Such unanimity must be confusing to those "marxists" who worked so hard to put the Tories out and Labour in.

There was,of course,one dissentient voice;it was the voice of Emrys Hughes.And what did he want? He wanted a sharp letter sent to Eisenhower. After all these years of Labour history there is not one man or woman in the House of Commons prepared to call for international solidarity against war..anyone who looks to Parliament for leadership will look in vain.

IF WAR COMES.

If the workers of this country get involved in war they will not be able to absolve the Labour Party from blame.It was a Labour Government that manufactured the first British-owned atom bomb.It was a Government of Labour that gave bases to America.It was a Labour Government that tied Britain to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.In the drive to war, this country is under the dual leadership of Macmillan and Gaitskell.The responsibility is shared by both parties.

DIPLOMACY.

Khruschev thought he would try his hand at diplomacy.Stalin had a few shots at it,but he chose favourable occasions.No more concessions can be won by diplomacy.That is now clear.

Camp David was the place where Eisenhower and Khruschev expressed a great regard for one another.That is all Khruschev got from his diplomacy.

Britain is the home of diplomacy. An insight into British diplomacy was given by Karl Marx in his "life of Lord Palmerston" and in "Secret Diplomatic History of the Eighteenth Century".It is with this tradition behind him that Macmillan enters the field.The latest letter to Khruschev is an example of the diplomatic art. It impresses Gaitskell and will give Khruschev a new test for his temper.

RUSSIA.

The Russian leaders are afraid of fraternal relations developing on an international scale.Forty-seven ago the workers of Russia seized power. It seems strange that after all that time the leaders dare not allow the Russian workers to fraternise with the workers of other countries.It is that attitude that hinders the fight for peace.

Diplomacy cannot stop war.If the workers don't stop it,war will come. Solidarity between the Russian and British workers would end the danger of war.That solidarity will come if set an example by taking a very firm stand against the Macmillan gang and his supporters in the Parliamentary Labour Party.Our message must be taken to the workers at the factory gates and to the trade unions.They will respond.

THE SEAMEN.

The strike of the seamen is over, but we have not heard the end of it. The leaders will require to press the demands of the men or they will have reason to be sorry for themselves.

The Glasgow men,who were under very severe pressure,anticipated the final decision and returned to work a day before the others.Many thousands of workers in Lanarkshire and Glasgow were booked to go to Ireland on holiday.The press did everything to arouse feeling against the seamen. Mc Donald,the Glasgow official of the union did everything possible to stop the strike.

The National Union of Seamen is nothing short of a racket.It was not for helping the men that Yates got his knighthood.This is one case for the formation of another union to replace the present racket.We can be sure that the shipowners will protect the existing union by every means in their power.The present position will end sooner or later.

YOUTH.

According to an article in "The Scotsman",by Graham Turner,there are now 33 Young Socialist branches in Scotland.They are attached to the Labour Party and are receiving the attention of Transport House.The aim is to use them for election work in competition with the Tories.Nothing will be done to educate them in the fundamental principles of Socialism.

They can help Socialism better as fighters than as vote-gatherers.This requires the attention of all those really concerned about furthering the cause of Socialism.

COMMENT

BRAVE PRIEST.

It is seldom we have occasion to speak of bravery on the part of a priest.A French priest,Abbe Christian Corre,was sentenced to a year in jail by a military tribunal at Lyons on a charge of encouraging desertion from the French Army in Algeria.He was said to be connected with a network called Young Resistance,which has advocated desertion from the army and helped deserters to get to foreign countries.

He denied having actually helped men to desert,but admitted that he distributed leaflets issued by Young Resistance.

Lenin.

There are more translations of Lenin's works than of any other author,according to United Nations, Educational,Scientific and Cultural organisation,Shakespeare and Jules Verne come next,in that order.

Lenin did not believe that peace could come through Summit talks.He called on the workers to transform imperialist war into civil war.He may not know it,but Khruschov owes his position to the fact that Lenin's policy was carried out in Russia,in 1917.We could learn much from Lenin.

CLAUSE 4.

We can all breathe freely now that Clause 4,which has been in the Labour Party constitution for 42 years,is to remain.If we paid serious attention to the Communist Party and the others who have been worrying about Clause 4 we would be of the opinion that the revolution was really round the next corner.They fool only themselves.

Gaitskell can now pursue his plan to devise a better scheme than the Tories for war preparations with the help of America.That cancels out all the fuss about Clause 4.

WHITHER FRANCE ?

The possibilty of civil war has been spoken about by Mendes-France, the ex-Premier.He believes that the De Gaulle Government may collapse and be followed by civil war.To avoid it, he wants a strong "non-Communist Left" set up.He made this statement at a luncheon of the Anglo-American Press Association.

The French Communist Party has re-affirmed its belief that Socialism attained by parliamentary means.It is possible that in the interests of Russia the policy could change.The Communist Parties became "peaceful" Parties to suit Russia's attempt to win the imperialist powers by sweet words.Russia's attitude has changed.

The revolutionary road is the one for the workers,but it is to be hoped that they will not rely on a Party that will switch when it suits the Russian Leaders.

PRIVILIGED.

There has not yet been an issue of this paper that did not contain a reference to Mr Khruschov.This issue will be no exception.This time we wish to say that his family seems to be in a privilged position.We know about their trip to America.They are still going around.They were with Nikita at Austria.
The daughter,YelenaN.Khruschov,who is said to be a chemist,turned up at a reception with a "plunging neckline and wearing diamond earrings and a three-strand pearl necklace.it looks as if the constant production drive does not affect her.

KENNEDY.

The Democratic Convention has now picked its candidate.The fact that he is a Roman Catholic makes him no different from any of the other big business nominees.With Khruschov now showing some interest in the Bible and calling on God to be his witness we may see a Summit conference in Vatican City.

Little has been said about the fact that the Trotskyists have put up candidates for President and Vice -President of United States.They are Mr Farrel Dobbs and Mrs Myra Tarmor Weise.They are run by the Socialist Workers Party.Neither the Socialist or Communist Parties have candidates.

SPAIN.

It looks as if trouble is brewing in Spain.It is not only the fact that seven incendiary bombs exploded in railway stations that leads us to that conclusion.When 338 Basque priests sign a letter calling for less interference by the Church in politics and protesting against the Government's policy,it is time to take notice.

The Papal Nuncio says the Church is taking no part in politics.The Archbishop of Pamplona asks the priests to examine their conscience. The lower clergy are in touch with the people.Discontent is widespread.